DATA SYSTEM WITH SUPPORT SURFACES FOR RECIPROCATING DATA HEAD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5   A data system (1) includes a credit card type substrate (3) and a data unit (2). The substrate has first and second edges (28, 30) and a data surface region (26) between the edges. The data unit includes a base (4), a substrate support (60) mounted to the base for controlled

10   movement along a first path (14), and a data head driver (6), also mounted to the base, including a data head which reciprocates along a second path (10) oriented perpendicular to the first path. The data head contacts the data surface region on the substrate and first and second data head support

15   surfaces (120, 122) located at opposite ends of the second path adjacent to the first and second edges of the substrate. The data head support surfaces and the data surface region are coplanar. The data unit also includes a substrate feeder (16), which delivers the substrate to and removes the

20   substrate from the substrate support, and a substrate positioner (68, 70, 82, 94, 98), which properly positions the substrate on and secures the substrate to the substrate support.